

REVIEWS

1. PLANT TISSUE CULTURE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY — EMERGING TRENDS, edited by P.B. Kavi Kishore. Published by Universities Press (India) Ltd., Hyderabad, 1999, hardbound price Rs. 525/-, pp. xiii+314. (24 x 16 cm).

The book provides a very broad spectrum of research presently being undertaken in plant tissue culture in the various University Departments throughout India as well as in a few research institutions and national research laboratories.

The book is a compilation of 50 research papers presented at a symposium on 'Emerging Trends in Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology' held at Hyderabad in 1997.

From the various articles, it is apparent that the major thrust of research on plant tissue culture in India is on micropropagation, for as many as 20 out of the 50 papers included in this volume deal with this topic, while only 5 papers deal with secondary metabolite production. The remaining papers dwell on a vast range of topics such as: somaclonal variations, anther culture, stress tolerance, nodule initiation, and hairy root culture. In fact, there are only 2 papers on molecular biology. The volume also includes 4 papers of general interest to researchers in this field; these papers provide essential information

on seed proteins, plant growth regulators, oxidative stress, calcium channel blockers, etc.

Nevertheless, this publication has its own place in current literature on plant tissue culture, as it provides first hand information on problems associated with tissue culture of a very wide range of plant species extending from ornamentals to the more useful commercial varieties, be they medicinal (*Withania*, *Boswellia*, *Alpinia*, *Bacopa*), fruit bearing (*Achras*, papaya, litchi, cashew), aromatic (vanilla) or even wheat and pulses. The information, particularly on tree species, will be of great use to prospective researchers as there are enumerable problems associated with their culture techniques which plant tissue culturists generally avoid because of the difficulties involved in raising such plantlets in the laboratory.

In summary, this volume will be a good addition to reference sources for scientists and students engaged in plant tissue culture.

■ S.M. KARMARKAR

2. FLORA AND FAUNA IN MUGHAL ART, edited by Som Prakash Verma. Marg Publications, Mumbai, 1999, hardbound price Rs. 1950/- (US\$ 60), pp. 164+8 (33 x 25 cm).

Ever since I read Dr. Sálím Ali's papers in *JBNHS* (Vols. 31 & 32, 1926-27) and Prof. S.M. Alvi and A. Rahman's book *JEHANGIR THE NATURALIST*, nearly 25 years ago, I wanted to know more about wildlife during the Mughal period. Marg Publications wins praise for bringing out a magnificent book *FLORA AND FAUNA IN MUGHAL ART*. This 33 x 25 cm coffee-table book is lavishly illustrated by some of the best painters of the Mughal period, including the legendary Mansur. The description of paintings is illuminating and helps in identifying minute details which one

would otherwise miss.

To enjoy the details, many paintings are published full-scale (e.g. p. 104, 105) but some paintings are small. For example, on page 39, Akbar watching elephant catching near Sipri is so awesome that I wish it was published full scale to appreciate the beauty of this work of art by Keshav Khwurd. Interestingly, the original painting is 32 x 20 cm, but unfortunately, it has been miniaturized in this book.

I was particularly saddened to know that most of the paintings are not present in Indian